



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Monday, November 8, 2021
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Nancy Heine	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Julia Bayha	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Beth Gibbons	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti Township
Takunia Collins	Present	- Washtenaw County, Pittsfield Township
Desirae Simmons	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Bryan Foley	Absent	

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Staff Liaison Ron Akers, Public Services Director
Commission Recording Secretary, Nancy Hare-Dickerson

Additional Staff Present: Bonnie Wessler, Public Services Project Manager (Zoom Meeting Host)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Simmons (Second: Bayha) moved to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Gibbons, Collins, Simmons
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Foley
Motion Carried.

V. INTRODUCTIONS - none

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition

Commissioner Gibbons shared her positive experiences with being involved with the SEMIS Coalition and Ypsilanti Schools. Lisa Voelker, Assistant Director of SEMIS, along with Paula Sizemore, Jessica Krueger-Koupal, Willie King, III, Connie Flanagan and Erin Gallay were present.

Ms. Voelker provided a Power Point presentation sharing information regarding the SEMIS Coalition, their work with the Ypsilanti Community Schools and their desire to discuss what building a more formal partnership with the Sustainability Commission might look like in the short and long term. Paula Sizemore, with the Ypsilanti Community Schools, also spoke; discussing student participation in the Coalition and its benefit to them. Query and comment followed.

2. University of Michigan Resilience Team Project

Taylor Antal and Bryce Frohlich, U of M Resilience Team members, were present. Ms. Antal provided an update regarding the completion of the initial draft of the pilot survey and of proposed plans going forward. Query and comment followed.

3. Recycle Ann Arbor

Bryan Weinert, Recycle Ann Arbor Director of Strategy, provided a presentation with a focus on zero waste mission-based recycling - how Recycle Ann Arbor fits into that ideal, as to who they are and the type of services they provide. Query and comment followed.

Staff Liaison Ron Akers further discussed where Ypsilanti City recyclables are currently taken after collection and explained that a list of approved recycling items can be found on the WRRMA (Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority) website. Query and comment followed.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of October 11, 2021 minutes

Simmons (Second: Collins) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Gibbons, Collins, Simmons
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Foley
Motion Carried.

VIII. WORK SESSIONS – none

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. 2022 Sustainability Commission Schedule

Gibbons (Second: Heine) moved to approve the 2022 Sustainability Commission Schedule as submitted.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Gibbons, Collins, Simmons
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Foley
Motion Carried.

2. Recycle Bin Updates

Staff Liaison Ron Akers provided an update regarding the status of the proposal of new recycling totes, as well as protocol regarding current recycling bin use. Query followed.

3. Resolution to Support Durbin Pellet Free Waters (Updated)

Commissioner Simmons explained the updates that she made to the original resolution, as shown below.

Resolved by the Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission:

Whereas the water in the Great Lakes is owned by the general public according to the Public Trust Doctrine,

Whereas the State of Michigan has an important role to play in protecting the great lakes which holds 20% of world's fresh surface water and 90% of North America's,

Whereas Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois introduced S.1507 the "Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act To Address Pollution In Great Lakes," which places "EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR WASTEWATER, SPILLS, AND RUNOFF FROM PLASTIC POLYMER PRODUCTION FACILITIES, PLASTIC MOLDING AND FORMING FACILITIES, AND OTHER POINT SOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORT AND PACKAGING OF PLASTIC PELLETS OR OTHER PRE-PRODUCTION PLASTIC MATERIALS."

Whereas Sen. Durbin's act is related to S. 984 which is Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon's "Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2021," which wants "To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes."

Whereas neither of Michigan's senators, Sen. Debbie Stabenow nor Sen. Gary Peters, have joined as co-sponsors,

Whereas the Sustainability Commission has been talking about ways to address plastics and how to move the costs of recycling and reducing plastic waste to the producers as opposed to the end-users,

Whereas the "Water is Life Festival" was hosted on September 4,

Therefore Be It Resolved That: the Sustainability Commission asks our City Council to encourage our US Senators to join as co-sponsors to these two bills, and to take leadership with others that protect our Great Lakes.

Be it Further Resolved That: The Sustainability Commission requests to learn more about work that our US Senators are doing in the areas related to our Action Plan.

Simmons (Second: Gibbons) moved to approve the Updated Resolution to Support the Durbin Pellet Free Waters Bill.

Query, comment and clarification discussion ensued.

Heine (Second: Simmons) offered a friendly amendment to approve a Revised Resolution to Support the Durbin Pellet Free Waters Bill, striking the last paragraph of the updated version, as shown below.

Resolved by the Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission:

Whereas the water in the Great Lakes is owned by the general public according to the Public Trust Doctrine,

Whereas the State of Michigan has an important role to play in protecting the great lakes which holds 20% of world's fresh surface water and 90% of North America's,

Whereas Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois introduced S.1507 the "Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act To Address Pollution In Great Lakes," which places "EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR WASTEWATER, SPILLS, AND RUNOFF FROM PLASTIC POLYMER PRODUCTION FACILITIES, PLASTIC MOLDING AND FORMING FACILITIES, AND OTHER POINT SOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORT AND PACKAGING OF PLASTIC PELLETS OR OTHER PRE-PRODUCTION PLASTIC MATERIALS."

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Whereas the “Water is Life Festival” was hosted on September 4,

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Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Gibbons, Collins, Simmons
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Foley
Motion Carried.

- 4. **SAW Grant Discussion – Postponed to next meeting, per Chair**
- 5. **Storm Drain Awareness Resolution Discussion – Postponed to next meeting, per Chair**

X. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

XI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS - none

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS - none

**XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE
December 13, 2021**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:19 p.m.

Heine (Second: Simmons) moved to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried